

Resolution No. 3**Hand-pounded rice to be used in all Hospitals in the State**

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (Nemmara): Mr. President Sir, the resolution that I wish to commend for the acceptance of this House is this: *"This Council recommends to the Government that they may be pleased to order that hereafter only hand-pounded rice should be used in all the hospitals of the State."* I have very little to state by way of arguments. All that I wish to say on this resolution is that the medical profession has invariably accepted the position that hand-pounded rice is much better than mill-pounded rice, for its nutritive value for human consumption. Several diseases had been attributed in several medical journals to the use of polished rice which is now obtainable so cheaply. Our ancients too had found out that hand-pounded rice was superior and that it was healthy. They knew that hand-pounded rice had more of nutritive value. To evidence that, we have only to see the use in our temples of rice which is not at all boiled and polished. In the Hindu temples, in the case of rice they use there, only the husk is removed and everything else in it is maintained in tact. This is an evidence to show that our ancients knew of the value of all the properties in the rice. I believe the House is well aware that the system of supplying hand-pounded rice is adopted in the Madras Presidency in the case of all hospitals except in the General Hospital at Madras. And I presume it is too late in the day for me to argue that hand-pounded rice is infinitely superior to the cheap mill-rice that is now obtainable and which is used generally by the people. My resolution is confined to the use of such rice in the hospitals in the State and it needs no argument for me to convince this House that when common people themselves are induced to take hand-pounded rice, it is all the more necessary that hospitals where people go for a cure are supplied with hand-pounded rice.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): On a point of information. May I know whether you maintain that the whole bran should be kept on the rice?

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (Nemmara): That is a matter of detail. I do not pretend to be an expert, with regard to the properties of the whole or the half-polished rice. All that I know is hand-pounded rice is much better for the use in hospitals for the patients than mill-rice. If my information is correct, I have heard some medical men state that, whether the bran is removed or not, the heat emanating from the engine itself practically destroys the vitamins.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): By cooking also you kill the vitamins.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): As to that, there are methods of cooking without killing the vitamins. Whatever it is, that hand-pounded rice is better than the other, one is admitted.

Another point also which I wish to submit before this House is that this industry of manufacturing hand-pounded rice has been in existence in the country-side and it was sufficient work to many poor men and women belonging to the lower order of society. In fact several small families were living on this business. They used to take paddy wholesale from villagers and supply them in turn with hand-pounded rice and many poor people used to make a living by this process. Now that cheap mills have invaded the country-side one solution to unemployment problem has vanished, and several families which used to live on the manufacture of hand-pounded rice are now thrown out of work. Indirectly the acceptance of this resolution will be a help to solve unemployment in a little way, though it is not possible to eradicate the evil. On these grounds, among others, I wish the Government will accept this resolution and give effect to it, by passing proper orders.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (*Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram*): Sir, I second it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Sir, I have tabled an amendment to this resolution. The amendment is: Delete the word 'hospitals' and substitute the following in its place; "The institutions managed or aided by the Government where feeding takes place".

സർ, ഈ പ്രമേയം ഒരു ഭേദഗതികൊണ്ട് മിസ്റ്റർ സ്പ്രെമിയർ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ച തത്വത്തെ ഒന്നുകൂടി വിസ്തൃതമാക്കുകയാണ് എന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം. അതായത് "ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വകയോ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു നടത്തുന്നതൊ ആയുള്ള വിദ്യാർത്ഥിമന്ദിരങ്ങളെക്കൂടി ഇതിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്". യന്ത്രത്തിൽ വെളുപ്പിച്ച അരിയുടെ ദോഷത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു ഈ സഭയിലെ മെമ്പറന്മാർ എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു യോജിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു ദീർഘമായി പറയേണ്ട കാര്യമില്ല. പഴയകാലത്തെപോലെ കൈകൊണ്ട് കുത്തിയ അരിയുടെ പ്രത്യേക ഗുണത്തെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ചീഫ് മെഡിക്കൽ ഓഫീസർ അവർ കർശനമായി സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. ഇതു നടപ്പിലാക്കിയാൽ കൈകൊണ്ട് കുത്തിയ അരിയുടെ പ്രചാരം വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും അങ്ങിനെ ക്രമേണ ഈ മിൽ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെത്തന്നെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കാനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ മനുഷ്യരുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തിനു ഗുണകരമായതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഭേദഗതിയോടുകൂടി ഈ പ്രമേയം സഭ അംഗീകരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Sir, this resolution as it stands and modified by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam is to recommend to the Government the use of

hand-pounded rice in hospitals and also in hostels and other institutions managed by the Government.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): In the Jail also.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): As regards the Jail, I may inform the hon'ble member that all the rice that is used there is pounded there by the convicts. Therefore that point is already met.

Next as regards the hospitals.—I must say that if the resolution asked the public of the State, first of all, to use hand-pounded rice, I would have certainly welcomed it. But the stay of a patient in a hospital is so short that, as soon as he is fit to take rice, we discharge him (*Laughter*). That is the first thing. Therefore the resolution loses its ground. We cannot afford to keep a patient fed with hand-pounded rice for many days, when there are others who come there who cannot take rice.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is any rice used now for any of the hospitals?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): If at all we use any rice, it is only some broken rice that we can afford to give these patients. Just like when Khaddar came into the market spurious Khaddar made in the mills made its appearance, in the same way now mills are making hand-pounded rice. But the only thing is that there is no hand and there is no pounding (*Laughter*). It is mill grinding. Even in the village parts if a mill is started, even the poorest of the people buy the paddy and bring it to the mills because people have become so easygoing. In the Central Jail the hardest work that the convicts have to do is pounding rice because it is a laborious process involving a lot of muscular labour. However much we may tell the people that walking is a very good exercise people will think of going from even the Vilangan to Trichur in a bus. In the same way since a good number of rice mills have been started in the State it is an easy method of doing things. No doubt we will be very glad to use hand-pounded rice if really hand-pounded broken rice is available and provided we get it at a fairly reasonable price. There are a few institutions in this State who have started this game and who want to make capital out of this. I myself tried to get hand-pounded rice but the price is one or 1½ rupees more. If in the local market the price of mill rice is Rs. 10 per bag, they would charge Rs. 12. Then we have to depend upon what they say whether it is really hand pounded or not. Unless dependable institutions like the Co-operative Societies are willing to supply the necessary rice.....

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): There is one at Nemmara.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Yes. I have purchased from them. If such institutions are willing to supply the necessary rice, then it is time for us to think about it. Then again we must get the stuff at a fairly reasonable price, otherwise the Government cannot accept this. The supply is made on tender basis and so we cannot afford to give a very high price.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Does the Chief Medical Officer admit that hand-pounded rice is better?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Yes, it is admitted.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know when a person takes mill-rice the quantity required is much more than hand-pounded rice.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Yes, it is so.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): It is certainly much more nutritious.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): At any rate there are certain deficiencies in the mill-rice.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Sir, I little expected that this innocent and innocuous resolution will be opposed by the Hon'ble Member for Medicine and it came to me as a surprise. Being so anxious for the welfare and betterment of the patients entrusted to the hospital I thought he will exhibit more anxiety in seeing that this resolution is accepted. It is conceded by the Hon'ble Member for Medicine that hand-pounded rice is superior to the milled one. The only difficulty seems to be that he is afraid that the genuine article may not be available in the market.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): We do not oppose it. As far as it is practicable, we will adopt the policy of purchasing this.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Provided you can get the genuine article.

Mr. President: The resolution cannot be accepted in its present form. The policy of the Government is to use hand-pounded rice wherever it is possible.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know whether it is being adopted?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Wherever it is available.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): For the information of the House and also of the Government I say that I can undertake to see that hand-pounded rice is supplied to the hospitals.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): If it can be supplied by the hon'ble member at a reasonable rate, the Government will only be very happy.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): There is a Society in Nemmara which is supplying hand-pounded rice for those people who want it. With regard to the price, I can only say that the Government also ought to be prepared to pay something more. Subject to that there are people who will be able to supply hand-pounded rice for the use of the Government. Another thing also I may state. Why is it that the Government feel so much difficulty to accept the position? They must spend a little more when they admit that the stuff is superior. It is only for the proper treatment of the patients that the hand-pounded rice is required. Even if it costs a little more it does not matter to the Government. Further, as the Hon'ble Member for Medicine was stating the moment the patient is found fit for eating rice he is discharged and therefore the cost will be very little so that the Government need not make a point out of it by saying that the expenses will be more, considering the advantages that will be derived by the use of hand-pounded rice.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Is it good policy on the part of the Government to take an undertaking from a member on behalf of a firm whose reliability is not known?

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): I cannot give a guarantee of quality. For the information of the House and also as a person interested in the development of Co-operative Societies, I said I will see that it is supplied.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): What about the hostels? There was an amendment by Mr. Iyyu.

***Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** (*Director of Public Instruction*): With regard to these hostels, a number of them are being managed by the students themselves. If there is any appreciable difference in price between hand-pounded and mill-rice, it will be very difficult for the Government to insist upon these boys to use hand-pounded rice. We cannot make it a rule of discipline in the hostels

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

that they should always use hand-pounded rice. The utmost that can be done in the case of hostels managed by the Government is that this will be communicated to the schools and they will be asked to see whether it cannot be adopted. One complaint against these hostels is that the rates obtaining there are higher than the rates obtaining in the restaurants, and this has driven out pupils from the residential system to the streets.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is it not because there are paid managers?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am not speaking with reference to any particular hostel. I am trying to explain the difficulties which exist in hostels generally. Wherever it is possible to insist upon the purchase of any better quality of rice, Government can assure the House that the opinion of the House and the Chief Medical Officer who is the best authority on the subject will be communicated to the officers concerned. Beyond that I am not able to give any undertaking.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Even as there is persuasive authority in law, will the hon'ble member be pleased to issue a circular to the High Schools where there are hostels, so that the hand-pounded rice may be used, as far as possible.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am prepared even to conduct a personal propaganda. Whether it could be absolutely enforced is the question?

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Now that the position has been clarified, and that the Government has been pleased to announce that, as far as possible, it will give effect to the principle underlying this resolution, I do not wish to press this. I pray for leave of the House for withdrawing the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution No. 4

To open a Canal across Nadamel and Thiruvankulam Villages

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*): Sir, the resolution standing in my name reads thus.—“*This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to open a canal across the Nadamel and Thiruvankulam villages, in order to drain the annual floods that destroy the crops in several acres of paddy fields in the above villages*”.